



# media release

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** (November 5, 2010)

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## **422 *plus* PROJECT ADDS NEW VIDEO INTERVIEWS TO ITS WEBSITE**

**Videos include discussions with 422*plus* Steering Committee members, business representatives, and the public**

(Philadelphia, PA) – Beginning Monday, November 8th, visitors to the **422*plus* Project** website - <http://www.422corridor.com> - will see and hear video opinions about the Route 422 corridor.

In the videos, the members of the 422*plus* Steering Committee, people from the local business community who operate along 422, and men and women “on the street,” talk about current driving conditions and the future of the 422 corridor.

Since spring of 2010, the 422*plus* Project has been studying the physical and financial state of the road as it travels through Montgomery, Chester and Berks counties. The interviewees were asked questions about traffic conditions, public transportation alternatives, and whether or not they would pay a toll on the road if it were determined one was necessary. The interviews were conducted from late August through September.

The results surprised even the interviewer.

“I was amazed,” says Gerald Kolpan, former Fox 29 reporter and the consultant brought in to shoot and conduct the interviews. “We figured at least half of the citizens we interviewed on the street wouldn’t want to pay for something they don’t have to now. But we were out there all day and we found only one person who said she’d never pay the toll. What the people – men, women, old and young - basically told us is that they would pay a toll if the price was reasonable and if the money raised in the corridor *stayed* in the corridor and didn’t get sent off to Harrisburg or Washington. They were also very enthusiastic about a part of that money being used to pay for extending train service from Norristown to Reading – especially the young people.”

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Interviewee Michael Schrank of Royersford is typical of those young people. He says he would be agreeable to paying a toll on 422 as long as it “wasn’t unreasonably high.” Schrank was especially excited about the possibility of extended train service that could take him in and out of Philadelphia. “I would even think about ditching the car altogether if there was something like a train available,” Schrank says in his interview. “We always try to stay as green as possible...getting one more car off the road. I’d love to see more trains in the area.”

The business people on the video echo such sentiments. In his interview, Steve Tullman, Chief Executive Officer of Phoenixville Hospital, says an improved Route 422 is essential not only to his workers, but to the economic health of the three counties – and that something needs be done about the road as soon as possible.

“They have to get moving on this,” says Tullman. “Even if you started road improvements today to 422, it would still take a long, long time. People are not opposed to paying for things if they think they’ll result in a better outcome.”

Twenty-one interviews were included in the final edit. Visitors to <http://www.422corridor.com> will be able to access the video from the site’s homepage. After the November 8th launch, new interviews will run every Monday through the month of November.

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*The **422plus Project** is considering tolling approximately 25 miles of US Route 422 in order to fund much-needed improvements, relieve congestion, address infrastructure needs and potentially support the re-establishment of passenger rail service between Norristown and Wyomissing, Berks County. The project is a collaboration between Pennsylvania’s Montgomery, Chester and Berks counties and regional planning and transportation agencies including: the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC); the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA); SEPTA; PennDOT; the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) and the Norfolk Southern railroad. The ultimate aim of the Project is to provide drivers with a safer, faster, better ride. More information can be found at <http://www.422corridor.com>.*



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